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H I P A A L E R T - l i t e October 10, 2001

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H I P A A n e w s

*** Public Health Hampered by "Paper Records" -- HIPAA Offers
Solutions ***

It can take several days, even weeks to alert public health authorities about potential outbreaks of communicable diseases, according to Healthkey's new report, "Report to the Community." Laura Ripp, program director of Healthkey, a coalition of non-profit healthcare organizations, stated that replacing the paper-based system with secure electronic information exchange via standardized, secure e-mail would "significantly reduce reporting time and allow state and local health departments and the CDC to react much more quickly to stop the spread of an infectious disease." She emphasized that collaboration among information technology leaders, healthcare vendors and government policy-makers will be the determining factor for successful resolution of this issue, which is one of many standardized security and privacy initiatives supported by HIPAA.

<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/news/2001/1010healthkey.htm>

*** House Leaders Urge Immediate Administrative HIPAA Simplification ***

According to the American Hospital Association (AHA), a bipartisan group of House health care leaders are calling on an end to delays to the implementation of administrative simplifications to HIPAA. In a letter sent last week to their congressional colleagues, several Ways & Means Health Subcommittee members said the provisions will improve administrative efficiency in the health care field by facilitating electronic transactions between health plans and health care providers. Citing a letter sent the before by AHA and others opposing the delay, the House lawmakers said if the provisions are delayed, public programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, private payers and ultimately all Americans will needlessly continue to pay for the inefficiencies inherent in the current

"Byzantine" system.

<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/news/index.htm#1005aha>

*** Governors Support HIPAA Delay "To Strengthen National Safety Net, Stimulate the Economy"

The National Governors Association (NGA) has included a request to delay HIPAA compliance deadlines in its proposals for a legislative stimulus package being considered by the Administration and Congress. In an October 4 press release, the NGA announced three categories of proposals: assistance to families affected by the recent terrorist attack, economic stimulus to accelerate state spending, and a "reduction or deferral of federal requirements that limit the states financial ability to respond to economic disruption."

<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/news/index.htm#1005nga>

*** HIPAA Regs Update: Employer ID & 3 NPRMS Likely by 12/31; Security Coming Early 2002 ***

The Employer Identifier Rule has been drafted and sent to DHHS for its final review, according to an October 1 report by WEDI (Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange). WEDI's report, which has been confirmed by government sources, also stated that two proposed rules (NPRMs) for revising the Transaction and Code Set standards should be published by the end of the year. A NPRM for Privacy is currently anticipated to be released in December of this year. WEDI also reported that the Claim Attachment NPRM and the Security final rule are in the final stages of preparation, and may be published early next year.

<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/news/index.htm#regs1004>

*** Hackers Keep On Trying To Breach Insurers Security ***

While the insurance industry seems to have dodged a bullet in not having major Web sites or networks successfully broken into by hackers, security managers at Mutual of Omaha report that the company network has been the target of numerous attempted attacks. "Imagine the eyebrows of our CEO when I reported to him that in one week time we had 190 Code Red worm attempts on our network," said Steven J. Clauson, director of system security for the Omaha, Neb.-based insurer. "Every day, we see between 10 and 20 serious-risk hacker attacks against our network," he added. A survey of 500 companies one by the Computer Security Institute and the FBI stated that viruses alone had cost these companies \$150 million over the course of a year.

<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/news/index.htm#0917nu>

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H I P A A l a t e s t

Don't forget to participate in our FALL '01 HIPAA SURVEY
before it ends TOMORROW, Thursday, October 11!

<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/action/survey/>

NEW IN HIPAAZINE:

**** Don't Make Privacy the Next Victim of Terror ****

A federal health care mandate could generate billions in technology
revenue, but don't get too giddy just yet.

<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/news/Hipaazine.htm#>

ON THE CALENDAR:

OCTOBER -

IN ONE WEEK!

Securely HIPAA Fall Audioconference Series

Session 2: Security Implementation for the Non-Technical Manager

Next WEDNESDAY, October 17, 2001, at 2:00 p.m. EDT

For more information & to sign up:

<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/ezcart/index.cfm>

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HIPAAAlert-lite is our weekly version of HIPAAAlert, Phoenix Health
Systems' acclaimed monthly e-mail newsletter.

Our Other HIPAA resources:

Web site: <http://www.hipaadvisory.com>

HIPAAlive Discussion List: <http://www.hipaadvisory.com/live/>

HIPAAnotes Weekly Byte of HIPAA: <http://www.hipaadvisory.com/notes/>

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